

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner will note that claim 1 has been amended to define that the gasoline fuel composition of the invention is "alkanol-free".

The Examiner will also note that claim 10 has been canceled, thereby obviating the objection to that claim.

It is believed that these actions overcome the rejections under section 112, so reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections are requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Trotta et al. (U.S. Patent 6,241,791 B1) in view of Scott et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0014035 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

The present invention is directed to a gasoline fuel composition, particularly characterized by being free of alkanol. This type of alkanol-free gasoline fuel composition is not taught or suggested in either of the references cited by the Examiner, whether considered alone or in combination.

Trotta et al., the primary reference, is specifically directed to a gasoline composition containing ethanol, namely compositions that require the presence of ethanol (and alkanol). The fundamental concept of Trotta et al. is to replace MTBE with the combination of ethanol and an oligomer of isobutene. This can be particularly seen by review of the Trotta et al. specification at, for example, column 6, lines 47-52 which read:

"It has now been surprisingly found that the use of high-octane hydrocarbon components deriving from the selective oligomerization of isobutene, has a **synergic effect with** that of some low-boiling and high-octane components, such as for example, **ethanol**, and enables all the problems described above to be overcome." (emphasis added)

Similarly, column 7, lines 28 – 33 of the Trotta et al. specification state that:

“The joint use of ethanol and mixtures rich in iso-octane and/or iso-octene allows the minimum limits on the oxygen content to be satisfied but at the same time enables both the desired octane and volatility specifications to be reached (even in summer).”

It is, therefore clear that Trotta et al. uses gasoline compositions that require the presence of ethanol. By contrast, the present invention is directed to gasoline compositions wherein the total olefins content is fixed and within that concentration there is an upper limit for the amount of light olefins and a lower limit of iso-octenes. As a result, there is no need for employing ethanol or any other oxygenate, as indicated by the examples in the specification. This is not at all taught or suggested by Trotta et al.

The Examiner's secondary reference, Scott et al., similarly is directed only to compositions which must contain ethanol. The first sentence of the abstract of Scott et al. specifically states that “provided is a method for blending an unleaded summer gasoline containing ethanol.” Similarly, the first sentence of the field of the invention states that “The present invention relates to fuels, particularly gasoline fuels which contain ethanol” and the first object of the invention described in Scott et al. states that “It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a method of blending ethanol into a gasoline formulation while overcoming the foregoing problems.” (see paragraph 0011 of Scott et al.).

There simply is no teaching in Trotta et al. or Scott et al. of a gasoline fuel composition which is free of ethanol, or alkanol, such as claimed in the present invention. Since there is no such teaching in the two cited prior art references, no combination of those references can in any way render the present invention obvious.

In view of above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and early allowance of all the claims are requested.

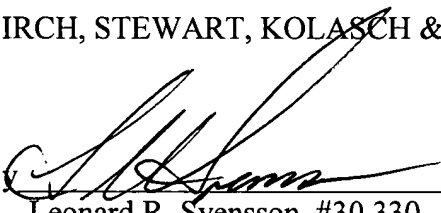
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


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LRS/lmt

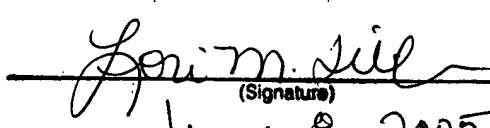
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Attachment(s)

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(Date of Signature)